

2008 Santa Lucia Highlands Pinot Noir

80% Rosella's Vineyard, 20% Garys' Vineyard

Clones: Pisoni, 667, 777, 113, Pommard

Alcohol: 14.6%

pH: 3.67

TA: 5.8 g/L

Barrel aging: 15 months in 40% new and 60% 1 and 2 year old French oak

Cases produced: 220

Thanks to my close connections with both August West and ROAR, I was able to source some very nice press wine from these two labels. I did trial blends with 10 barrels and came up with 220 cases worth of SLH Pinot, mostly from Rosella's Vineyard with a small percentage of Garys' Vineyard.

This is a very similar wine to the '07 SLH that sold out too quickly last year. The spicy and fruity Santa Lucia nose needs no decanting for it to jump out of the glass, which is surprising given the youth of the wine. The palate has excellent balance with acidity, fruit and soft tannins. I'd predict this '08 Santa Lucia Highland Pinot to be at its best from 2011 through 2013.

